

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 3662, THE U.S. HOLOCAUST
ASSETS COMMISSION ACT OF 1998

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, few events in the course of human history have affected the human psyche as profoundly as the attempted extermination of the Jewish race by the Nazi regime in World War II. This dark period in our past serves as a reminder of what must never again come to pass. However, lingering questions regarding the disposition of holocaust victims' assets and the role of neutral countries in the theft of these assets have precluded our conclusively closing the door on this chapter in history. The bill we have before us today, H.R. 3662, the U.S. Holocaust Assets Commission Act of 1998 gives us this opportunity.

In the House Banking and Finance Committee, we have held four hearings of this subject, beginning in December of 1996. In the past two years, several European nations and other nations scattered around the globe have created commissions to investigate their own role in the theft of holocaust victim's assets. The investigations have broadened past individual bank accounts to include such assets as artwork and insurance claims. It is time for the United States to do the same and examine the actions of the U.S. Federal Government with regard to holocaust victims' assets that flowed into America after Hitler seized power in Germany.

The June 2, 1998, preliminary report by the Administration's task force and Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, represents a significant level of commitment by the U.S. Federal Government and an important step in the process. The report also provides an alarming amount of compelling evidence regarding cooperation with the Nazis by neutral countries. These countries accepted large shipments of gold and other assets plundered from Holocaust victims and exchanged critically needed war materials. It is imperative that we continue to study this issue and develop a deeper understanding of the circumstances and consequences of these events.

H.R. 3662 is a good, bipartisan bill that will help America explore many of these same issues as they may have occurred on our own soil. By December 31, 1999, the President and Congress should receive a report from the commission and will have the information necessary to bring justice and closure to questions of the disposition of holocaust victims' assets in America. It is what we, as a nation, must do. I urge all my colleagues to support his bill.

CARMINE J. SPINELLI—40 YEARS
OF FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Carmine Spinelli of Whitehouse Station, New Jersey. After forty years of Federal civilian service at the United States Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey, Carmine will officially retire on July 3, 1998. This evening, June 24, 1998, Mr. Spinelli is being honored for his many years of dedicated service.

Carmine is a native of New Jersey originally from Raritan, a wonderful municipality in Somerset County, and a graduate from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Metallurgical Engineering. He began his civil service career in June 1958 as a Mechanical Engineer in the Feltman Research and Engineering Laboratory, Picatinny Arsenal. For more than thirty years he worked and progressed from a Design Engineer to a Division Chief in the Fire Support Armaments Center in 1985. In this capacity, he was responsible for the management and execution of Life Cycle Engineering.

In June 1990, he was promoted to the Senior Executive Services (equivalent to Brigadier General in the United States Army) and was appointed as the Deputy Director of the Fire Support Armaments. In this position for many years, he managed an organization of more than 1,000 scientists and engineers involved in research, development and engineering of a variety of armaments including, artillery, mortars, mines, demolitions, precision munitions and related fire control systems for the entire United States Army. Mr. Spinelli was appointed to the position of Technical Director at the United States Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (an SES rank equivalent to a Major General in the United States Army) in April 1995. Not only was Mr. Spinelli responsible for all technical operations, he managed an annual operating budget of 600 million dollars and a technical staff of over 2,000 scientists and engineers with approximately 2,000 support personnel.

I would be hard pressed to list all of Carmine's accomplishments and special citations here today. But, I must highlight the fact that Carmine has been instrumental in the many successes Picatinny Arsenal has achieved. In 1995, Picatinny Arsenal received the Quality Improvement Prototype; Co-winner, Army R&D Organization of the Year. In 1996, Picatinny Arsenal was awarded the Best Medium Size Installation; R&D Center of Excellence; Commander in Chief Award for Installation Excellence; Presidential Award for Quality; Quality Partner Award from Quality New Jersey and in 1997 the R&D Center of Excellence. As you know, these awards are

the most prestigious and coveted in the military. In fact, they are often referred to as the Triple Crown of military achievements. Personally, Carmine has received the Army's highest civilian award, he Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service Award, 1990.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Carmine's family and friends and his colleagues at Picatinny Arsenal in recognizing Carmine Spinelli's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to New Jersey and to our nation. His dedication and service can only be described as above and beyond the call of duty. His work has kept our young men and women in our military safe and well equipped wherever they serve, whether at home or abroad. For his lifetime of work, we are deeply grateful.

REMEMBERING DONALD E.
KIDWELL, SR.

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise today to announce the passing of Donald E. Kidwell Sr. His contributions to Prince William County will be long remembered. Don died unexpectedly of cardiac arrest at Mary Washington Hospital in Fredericksburg. He was only 54. It is hard for me to believe that such a dedicated citizen is gone.

In addition to being born in Northern Virginia, he lived in and served the area for his entire life. He attended the University of Virginia from 1961 to 1963 and then graduated from George Mason University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts in history. Don made his living as president of Kidwell Title and Abstract Co, although his penchant for local politics led him to serve two four-year terms on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

Don, an Arlington native, represented the Woodbridge District on the board from 1980 to 1988. In 1991, he retired from local politics following an unsuccessful campaign against Democrat Kathleen Seefeldt in the race for the first-ever chairman of the board. However, he never lost touch with the political scene. He had a true love for Prince William County and its politics. Don always lived life to the fullest and his unfailing jovial manners remained with him till the end.

Even when his title office opened on Saturdays to make time for overflow work, Don always made time for community service activities. He could be found at any number of civic callings including as a negotiator on Prince William County's behalf with the Woodbridge District, Manassas, and Manassas Park and as former chairman of the Potomac-Rappahanock Transportation District. In addition, he sat on the board of the Prince William County Symphony, and he was the president of the Boys' and Girls' Club of Prince William County.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.